



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Mountain  
Plains  
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80204

Reply to  
Attn. of: SFSP-237

MAY 09 1994

Subject: Site Eligibility in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS  
To: (Special Nutrition Programs)

- Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH,  
Montana OPI, Nebraska ED, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming DHSS

Based on recent questions regarding site eligibility, we felt there was a need to clarify this issue.

For an open site, the area from which the children will be drawn establishes the area for which *eligibility* must be established. In SFSP-223, we discussed use of census tract data and tables were provided which indicated the percent of needy children in each block of a census tract. Any of those blocks which had at least 50 percent needy children could have an eligible site if the site was to serve the children in that block. However, a sponsor could not select a "needy" block in which to locate a site with the intention of serving children from an area wider than the block. If the intention is to serve a wider area, the percentage of needy must be calculated using data from all the blocks involved to come up with the appropriate percentage on which to base that site's eligibility. To do this, the numbers in the census tract tables under the column headings "Below" and "Uncomputed" would be added together and divided by the combined "Total" column figures. An example using data from two blocks that establishes 50 percent eligibility is as follows:

STCOU TRACT B	Total	Below	Uncomputed	Percent in Poverty
190079501 1	238	86	10	40.34
190079501 2	<u>372</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>13</u>	59.68
	610	295	23	

$$295 + 23 = 318 \div 610 = 52.13\%$$

An example using data from three blocks that would not establish 50 percent eligibility of an area is as follows:

190079501 1	238	86	10	40.34
190079501 2	372	209	13	59.68
190079501 3	<u>185</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>6</u>	24.86
	795	335	29	

$$335 + 29 = 364 \div 795 = 45.79\%$$

In determining site eligibility of an open site using school data, the same principle of averaging would apply when more than one school is located in the area that children would be drawn from. (See SFSP-189 for the exception to using data from all schools in the area.) To average school data, the free and reduced price data for each school would be totaled and divided by the sum of the enrollment from each school. An example follows:

	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Free</u>	<u>Reduced-Price</u>	<u>Percent In Poverty</u>
Ames Elementary	450	229	54	62.9
Jones Elementary	<u>365</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>22</u>	48.2
	815	383	76	

$$383 + 76 = 459 \div 815 = 56.3\%$$

To determine a site's eligibility when data must be averaged, we would expect the method that is illustrated to be used since it is mathematically correct.

If you have any questions regarding this information on site eligibility, please contact a member of my staff at (303) 844-0359.

*Ann C. DeGroat*

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